



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
BETHESDA, MD. 20014
AREA CODE 301 TEL: 656-4000

March 25, 1969

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Stanford University School of Medicine
Stanford Medical Center
Palo Alto, California 94304

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I am writing primarily about two matters and let me quickly dispense with the first and least important one. I am in the middle of the much hated, but apparently absolutely necessary, annual report and I would like to ask you if you have made any progress with the macrosomia study, or have anything worth saying about it, so that I could include it in the report.

The second and more important matter concerns the analysis of the Collaborative Study data. Although the collection of all the data will not be completed until 1973, all the study children have been born and by the end of this year will all have passed the four year milestone. One fourth of the study children are now seven years old and have gone through the seven year battery of tests, which constitutes the graduation exercises, so to speak. I am very anxious at this time to develop a master plan for comprehensive analysis of the genetic and socioeconomic material collected in the study, for which I am responsible. None of the collaborating institutions have trained geneticists or sociologists to participate in the analysis of the data. My own staff here consists of only three professionals and the number of projects that we can develop is limited not only by the limited staff but also by our own interests and capabilities. This material is vast and rich. It has cost many millions of dollars to collect and it deserves thorough analysis according to a well designed, comprehensive plan.

I thought that the best way to accomplish this would be to establish a panel of interested people familiar with the project, and also with ways of dealing with masses of data, to help in the development of such a plan, and also to oversee its implementation. I know that you are already heavily

Myriam Tjebk

committed to a variety of tasks, but I hope that you will find some time to serve on such a panel and give us the benefit of your advice and guidance. I plan to ask for the help of some of our senior people such as Jim Crow and also of some of the younger geneticists who have the talent and the experience, such as C. S. Chung and Dick Richardson. Jack Schull, who served as consultant to this project more than ten years ago, has already promised his help.

I thought that we might have an initial meeting here in Bethesda, perhaps in late May, to study the problem and set initial guidelines.

I would very much appreciate having your thoughts in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ntinos' followed by a stylized flourish.

Ntinos C. Myrianthopoulos, Ph.D.
Head, Section on Epidemiology and
Genetics
Perinatal Research Branch
National Institute of Neurological
Diseases and Stroke